

Amendments to the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please cancel claims 5, 25 and 26, and amend claims 1, 24, 27, 28 and 41-43, as indicated herein. A complete listing of all claims in the application is provided immediately below.

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1. (currently amended) A terminating device comprising:
 - a base;
 - a customer bridge attached to the base, the customer bridge housing at least one insulation displacement contact therein and having at least one wire insertion hole formed therein for electrically connecting subscriber wiring to the terminating device;
 - a stuffer assembly mounted to the base, the stuffer assembly having at least one insulation displacement contact for electrically connecting service provider wiring to the terminating device; and
 - a cover attached to the customer bridge and rotatable between a closed position and an opened position, the cover comprising a locking slide having a movable clasp, the movable clasp having a lower portion positioned adjacent the stuffer assembly that is broken off when an unauthorized person moves the cover from the closed position to the opened position and thereby provides a visual indication that the unauthorized person has attempted to gain access to the customer bridge.
2. (original) A terminating device according to claim 1, wherein the customer bridge further has at least one actuating arm disposed therein that is movable between a disconnected position in which the subscriber wiring is not electrically connected to the insulation displacement contact housed within the customer bridge and a connected position in which the subscriber wiring is electrically connected to the insulation displacement contact housed within the customer bridge.

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A terminating device according to claim 1, wherein the clasp has an opening for receiving a subscriber lock.

7. (previously presented) A terminating device according to claim 1, further comprising a jack mounted on the base and wherein the cover comprises a plug that engages the jack when the cover is in the closed position.

8. (original) A terminating device according to claim 7, wherein the jack has a resilient seal thereabout and the plug has a mating resilient seal thereabout so that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack and thereby produces a watertight seal when the cover is in the closed position.

9. (original) A terminating device according to claim 7, wherein the jack has a resilient seal thereabout and the plug has a mating resilient seal thereabout so that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack and thereby increases the manufacturing tolerance of the distance between the plug and a predetermined location on the cover.

10. (original) A terminating device according to claim 1, wherein the stuffer assembly comprises an internally threaded post affixed to the base, a stuffer positioned over the post, at least one wire insertion passage formed in the stuffer for receiving the subscriber wiring, and an externally threaded stuffer screw that engages the post to drive the stuffer between a disconnected position and a connected position.

11. (original) A terminating device according to claim 10, wherein the insulation displacement contact of the stuffer assembly is positioned on the base at an angle relative to the wire insertion passage.
12. (original) A terminating device according to claim 10, wherein the stuffer assembly further comprises at least one test port for verifying the integrity of the electrical connection between the insulation displacement contact and the subscriber wiring.
13. (previously presented) A terminating device comprising:
 - a base;
 - a customer bridge attached to the base, the customer bridge housing at least one insulation displacement contact therein and having at least one wire insertion hole formed therein for electrically connecting subscriber wiring to the terminating device; and
 - a cover attached to the customer bridge and movable between a closed position and an opened position, the cover comprising a locking slide having a movable clasp;wherein the movable clasp has a lower portion that is broken off when an unauthorized person moves the cover from the closed position to the opened position and thereby provides a visual indication that the unauthorized person has attempted to gain access to the customer bridge.
14. (canceled).
15. (original) A terminating device according to claim 13, wherein the clasp has an opening for receiving a subscriber lock.
16. (original) A terminating device according to claim 13, further comprising a jack mounted on the base and wherein the cover comprises a plug that engages the jack when the cover is in the closed position.

17. (original) A terminating device according to claim 16, wherein the jack has a resilient seal thereabout and the plug has a mating resilient seal thereabout so that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack and thereby produces a watertight seal when the cover is in the closed position

18. (original) A terminating device according to claim 16, wherein the jack has a resilient seal thereabout and the plug has a mating resilient seal thereabout so that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack and thereby increases the manufacturing tolerance of the distance between the plug and a predetermined location on the cover.

19. (original) A terminating device according to claim 13, wherein the customer bridge further has at least one actuating arm disposed therein that is movable between a disconnected position in which the subscriber wiring is not electrically connected to the insulation displacement contact housed within the customer bridge and a connected position in which the subscriber wiring is electrically connected to the insulation displacement contact housed within the customer bridge.

20. (original) A terminating device according to claim 13, further comprising a stuffer assembly mounted to the base, the stuffer assembly having at least one insulation displacement contact for electrically connecting service provider wiring to the terminating device.

21. (original) A terminating device according to claim 20, wherein the stuffer assembly comprises an internally threaded post affixed to the base, a stuffer positioned over the post, at least one wire insertion passage formed in the stuffer for receiving the subscriber wiring, and an externally threaded stuffer screw that engages the post to drive the stuffer between a disconnected position and a connected position.

22. (original) A terminating device according to claim 21, wherein the insulation displacement contact of the stuffer assembly is positioned on the base at an angle relative to the wire insertion passage.

23. (original) A terminating device according to claim 21, wherein the stuffer assembly further comprises at least one test port for verifying the integrity of the electrical connection between the insulation displacement contact and the subscriber wiring.

24. (currently amended) A device for terminating service provider wiring and subscriber wiring, the device comprising:

a base;

a stuffer assembly mounted to the base, the stuffer assembly comprising a stuffer and a stuffer screw that drives the stuffer between a disconnected position and a connected position, the stuffer assembly having at least one insulation displacement contact for terminating the service provider wiring to the device and at least one wire insertion passage formed in the stuffer for receiving the provider wiring; ~~and~~

a customer bridge attached to the base, the customer bridge housing at least one insulation displacement contact therein and having at least one wire insertion hole formed therein for terminating the subscriber wiring to the device; and

a cover attached to the customer bridge and movable between a closed position and an opened position, the cover comprising a locking slide having a movable clasp with a lower portion that is broken off when an unauthorized person moves the cover from the closed position to the opened position and thereby provides a visual indication that the unauthorized person has attempted to gain access to the customer bridge;

wherein the insulation displacement contact of the stuffer assembly is positioned on the base at an angle relative to the wire insertion passage.

25. (canceled).

26. (canceled).

27. (currently amended) A device according to ~~claim 25~~ claim 24, wherein the clasp has an opening for receiving a subscriber lock.

28. (currently amended) A device according to ~~claim 25~~ claim 24, further comprising a jack mounted on the base and wherein the cover comprises a plug that engages the jack when the cover is in the closed position.

29. (original) A device according to claim 28, wherein the jack has a resilient seal thereabout and the plug has a mating resilient seal thereabout so that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack and thereby produces a watertight seal when the cover is in the closed position

30. (original) A device according to claim 28, wherein the jack has a resilient seal thereabout and the plug has a mating resilient seal thereabout so that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack and thereby increases the manufacturing tolerance of the distance between the plug and a predetermined location on the cover.

31. (original) A device according to claim 24, wherein the customer bridge further has at least one actuating arm disposed therein that is movable between a disconnected position in which the subscriber wiring is not terminated to the insulation displacement contact housed within the customer bridge and a connected position in which the subscriber wiring is terminated to the insulation displacement contact housed within the customer bridge.

32. (canceled).

33. (canceled).

34. (previously presented) A device according to claim 24, wherein the stuffer assembly further comprises at least one test port for verifying the integrity of the electrical connection between the insulation displacement contact and the subscriber wiring.

35. (original) A device according to claim 24, further comprising an electronics module affixed to the base and wherein the customer bridge and the stuffer assembly each comprise a

dielectric sealant for sealing the insulation displacement contact of the customer bridge and the insulation displacement contact of the stuffer assembly.

36. (original) A device according to claim 35, herein the electronics module comprises a protection element.

37. (previously presented) A network interface device (NID) for use in a communications network comprising:

a line module for interconnecting service provider wiring with subscriber wiring, the line module comprising

a base;

a stuffer assembly mounted to the base, the stuffer assembly comprising at least one insulation displacement contact for terminating the service provider wiring;

a customer bridge attached to the base, the customer bridge housing at least one insulation displacement contact for terminating the subscriber wiring; and

a cover attached to the customer bridge for movement between an opened position and a closed position; and

a lockable inner cover having a lip;

wherein the cover of the line module comprises a sliding lock having a movable clasp, the clasp comprising a lower portion that is positioned beneath the lip of the inner cover so that the lower portion is broken off when an unauthorized person moves the cover of the line module from the closed position to the opened position.

38. (canceled).

39. (original) A network interface device according to claim 37, wherein the line module further comprises a jack mounted on the base and wherein the cover of the line module comprises a plug that engages the jack when the cover of the line module is in the closed position, the jack having a resilient seal thereabout and the plug having a mating resilient seal thereabout.

40. (original) A network interface device according to claim 37, wherein the line module further comprises an electronics module affixed to the base and wherein the customer bridge and the stuffer assembly each comprise a dielectric sealant for sealing the insulation displacement contact of the customer bridge and the insulation displacement contact of the stuffer assembly.

41. (currently amended) A terminating device for interconnecting subscriber wiring and service provider wiring comprising:

a base;

a customer bridge attached to the base, the customer bridge housing at least one insulation displacement contact therein and having at least one wire insertion hole formed therein for electrically connecting the subscriber wiring to the terminating device, the customer bridge having at least one actuating arm disposed therein that is movable between a disconnected position in which the subscriber wiring is not electrically connected to the insulation displacement contact housed within the customer bridge and a connected position in which the subscriber wiring is electrically connected to the insulation displacement contact;

~~a stuffer assembly mounted to the base, the stuffer assembly having at least one insulation displacement contact for electrically connecting the service provider wiring to the terminating device; and~~

a cover attached to the customer bridge, the cover having at least one opening therethrough for visually indicating whether the at least one actuating arm is in the disconnected position or the connected position.

42. (currently amended) A terminating device ~~for interconnecting subscriber wiring and service provider wiring~~ according to claim 41, further comprising:

a base;

a telephone jack provided on the base;

~~a customer bridge attached to the base, the customer bridge housing at least one insulation displacement contact therein and having at least one wire insertion hole formed therein for electrically connecting the subscriber wiring to the terminating device;~~

~~a stuffer assembly mounted to the base, the stuffer assembly having at least one insulation displacement contact for electrically connecting the service provider wiring to the terminating device; and~~

a cover attached to the customer bridge ~~an~~ movable between an opened position and a closed position, the cover comprising a plug that engages the telephone jack when the cover is in the closed position, the plug having a resilient seal such that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack to thereby produce a watertight seal when the cover is in the closed position.

43. (currently amended) A terminating device ~~for interconnecting subscriber wiring and service provider wiring~~ according to claim 41, further comprising:

~~a base;~~

a telephone jack provided on the base;

~~a customer bridge attached to the base, the customer bridge housing at least one insulation displacement contact therein and having at least one wire insertion hole formed therein for electrically connecting the subscriber wiring to the terminating device;~~

~~a stuffer assembly mounted to the base, the stuffer assembly having at least one insulation displacement contact for electrically connecting the service provider wiring to the terminating device; and~~

a cover attached to the customer bridge ~~an~~ movable between an opened position and a closed position, the cover comprising a plug that engages the telephone jack when the cover is in the closed position, the plug having a resilient seal such that the plug is movable on the cover relative to the jack to thereby increase the manufacturing tolerance of the distance between the plug and a predetermined location on the cover.